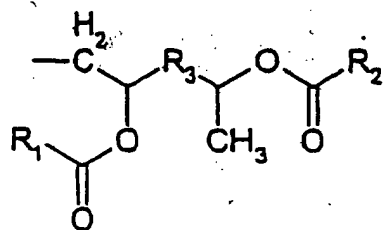
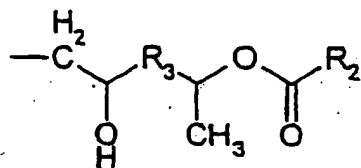


### Amendments to th Claim

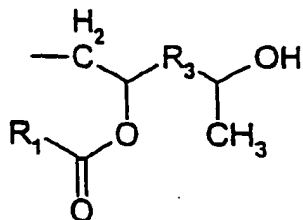
1. (previously amended) Quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula  $R_4[R_5R_6N^+Z]_n X^-$  wherein Z is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom and selected from the group of the following formulae (I-IV)



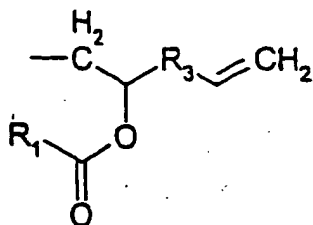
(I),



(II)

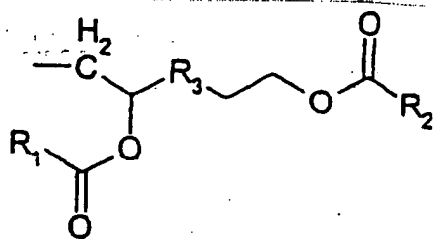


(III)

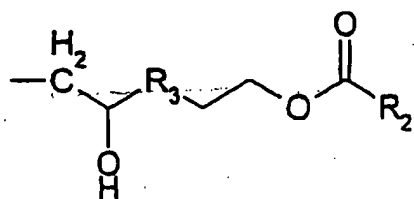


(IV),

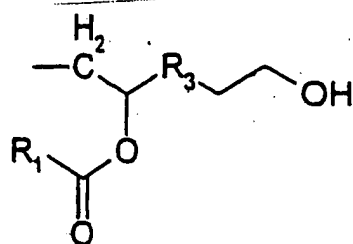
and the isomers thereof with the formulae:



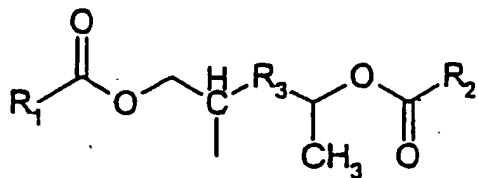
(Ia)



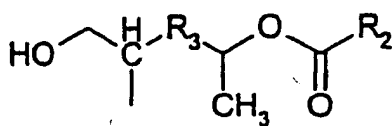
(IIa)



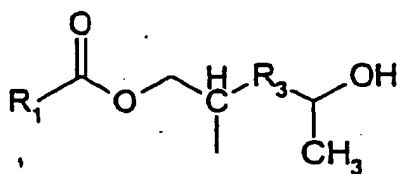
(IIIa)



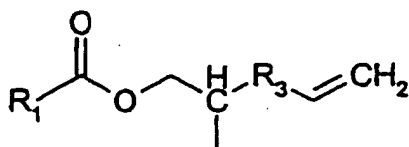
(Ib),



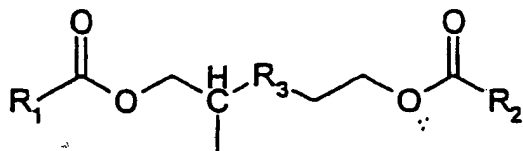
(IIb)



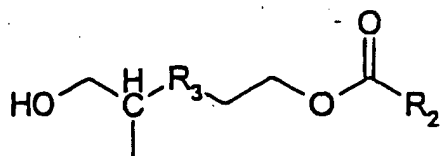
(IIIb)



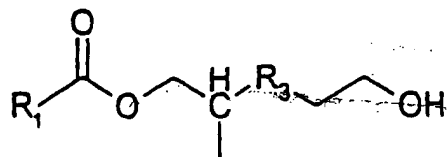
(IVb)



(Ic)



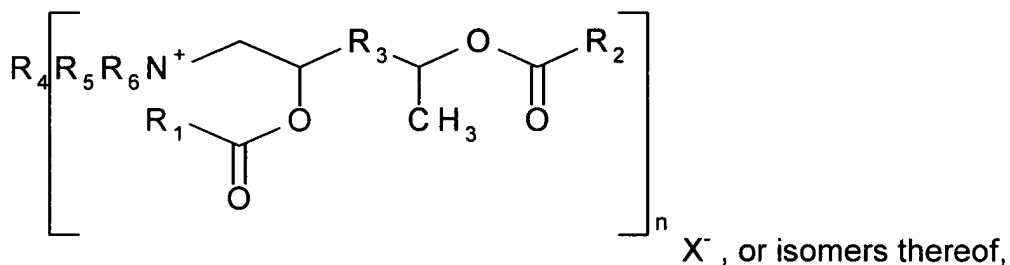
(IIc), and



(IIIc)

wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_{6-22}$  hydrocarbyl,  
 $R_3$  is nothing or  $C_{1-20}$  hydrocarbyl,  
 $R_4$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene, or independent Z,  
 $R_5$  is H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, independent Z, or the residue of the quaternizing agent, such as  $C_{1-30}$  alkyl or alkenyl, preferably  $C_{1-7}$  alkyl or alkenyl,  
 $R_6$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or independent Z,  
n is 1 or 2, and  
 $X^-$  is an ion selected from  $Cl^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $F^-$ ,  $CH_3SO_4^-$ ,  $C_2H_5SO_4^-$ ,  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ , propionate<sup>-</sup>, tartrate<sup>-</sup>, and benzoate<sup>-</sup>, wherein the total charge of the anions equals the total charge of the cations.

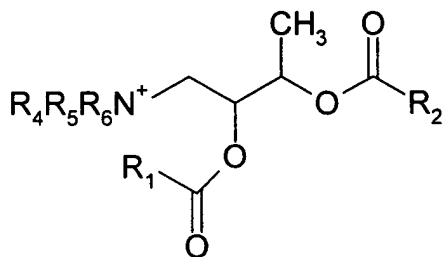
2. (withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 1 of the formula



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_{6-22}$  hydrocarbyl,  
 $R_3$  is nothing or  $C_{1-20}$  hydrocarbyl,  
 $R_4$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene, or independent Z,  
 $R_5$  is H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, independent Z, or the residue of the quaternizing agent, such as  $C_{1-30}$  alkyl or alkenyl, preferably,  $C_{1-7}$  alkyl or alkenyl,  
 $R_6$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or independent Z,  
n is 1 or 2, and  
 $X^-$  is an ion selected from  $Cl^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $F^-$ ,  $CH_3SO_4^-$ ,  $C_2H_5SO_4^-$ ,  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $H_2PO_3^-$ ,  $HPO_3^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,  $HPO_2^{2-}$ , nitrate<sup>-</sup>, formate<sup>-</sup>, acetate<sup>-</sup>, propionate<sup>-</sup>, tartrate<sup>-</sup>

and benzoate<sup>-</sup>, wherein the total charge of the anions equals the total charge of the cations.

3. (withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 2 of the formula



X<sup>-</sup>, or isomers thereof,

wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>-R<sub>6</sub> and X<sup>-</sup> have the meaning given in claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>6-22</sub> hydrocarbyl,

R<sub>4</sub> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene, or independent Z,

R<sub>5</sub> is H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, independent Z, or the residue of the quaternizing agent, such as C<sub>1-30</sub> alkyl or alkenyl, preferably, C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl or alkenyl,

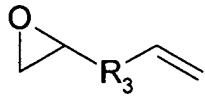
R<sub>6</sub> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or independent Z,

and

X<sup>-</sup> is an ion selected from Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>, CH<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, HPO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, HPO<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>, nitrate<sup>-</sup>, formate<sup>-</sup>, acetate<sup>-</sup>, propionate<sup>-</sup>, tartrate<sup>-</sup> and benzoate<sup>-</sup>, wherein the total charge of the anions equals the total charge of the cations..

4. (original) Compounds according to claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>12-18</sub> alkyl groups.
5. (original) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are methyl.

6. (original) Compounds according to claim 1 wherein  $X^-$  is chloride, methyl sulfate or ethyl sulfate.
7. (withdrawn) Intermediates for making one or more of the compounds of claim 1 wherein said intermediate has the formula  $R_4[R_6NZ]_n$ , wherein  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $n$ , and  $Z$  have the meaning given in claim 1.
8. (original) A fabric softening composition comprising one or more of the compounds according to claim 1.
9. (original) A process of making the compounds of claim 1 which comprises:

- reacting an unsaturated epoxide of the formula  with an amine or protonated amine of the formula  $R_4[R_5R_6N]_n$  or  $R_4[R_5R_6N^+H]_n X^-$ , wherein  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $n$ , and  $X^-$  have the meaning given in claim 1, and
- esterification of the intermediate with, on average, 1-2 moles of fatty acid derivatives, comprising the moieties  $R_1-C(O)-$ ,  $R_2-C(O)-$  or mixtures thereof, per mole of OH groups of the intermediate,
- an optional conventional quaternization either before or after said esterification step.

10. (original) The process according to claim 9, wherein a trialkylamine is reacted with the unsaturated epoxide.
11. (canceled).
12. (original) A fabric softening composition which comprises at least one compound according to claim 2 .

13. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 12 which additionally comprises at least one performance booster selected from the group consisting of cationic and non-ionic surfactants.

14. (previously added) The composition of claim 8 which additionally comprises at least one performance booster selected from the group consisting of cationic and non-ionic surfactants.